GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3349
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
REDUCING COST OF TESTS
Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring down the cost of various tests viz. CD4, CD8, Cell counts and Viral Lord test related to AIDS in view of the alarming increase in number of AIDS patients in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the study conducted in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir.

Under the National AIDS Control Programme, CD4 count is monitored among the AIDS patients put on ART. Following steps have been taken to reduce the cost.

1. The CD4 testing is arranged at selected Government ART centres at a subsidized cost for initial screening.

2 . Under the free ART programme, this test is done free of cost for all patients registered for ART treatment at the identified Government hospitals.